June 1, 1968

To: All interested parties
From: David Lifton
Re: A limited edition of a paperback book containing the recently declassified transcript of the Executive Sessions of the Warren Commission

In the past few months, more and more material has been declassified , at the U.S. National Archives, on the assassination of President Kennedy. Of considerable importance are three items, which will be described in detail:

1) The transcript of the Executive Sessions of the Warren Commission (300 pages
2) The transcript of the "original" questioning of Marina Oswald by agents of the US Secret Service (46 pages; Commission Document 344)
3) The Liebeler Memorandum of 9/6/64 (26 pages)

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1) Transcript of the Executive Sessions of the Warren Commission
This is a 300 page stenographic record of the meetings, held throughout the course of the Warren Commission's existance, in which the seven members of the Commission itself (no staff present, except for their chief counsel) convened to discuss matters pertaining to the organization of the Commission, and various aspects of the investigation (such as whether or not to look at the auotpsy x rays and photos). David Wise's recent article in the Saturday Evening Post ("Secret Evidence on the Kennedy Assassination", SEP, 4/6/64) was written on the basis of his perusal of this transcript, among other things.

Matters that are discussed include: the autopsy x rays and photos; what to do about Mark Lane; how Commissioner John McCloy's wife is suspicous of Oswald's "defection" to Russia and return; the possibilities of Marina skipping the country before she testifies; was the Lincoln assassination really a plot (Dulles says "no", because one man was so "dominant"); and what in God's name should they tell the press they were talking about when they leave the room they are in, since they are sure to be hounded by reporters. The personalities of the Commissioners come through in this.

Some of it is boring, some of it is interesting and very important, and some of it is serio-comical in nature. (Archives price: $60 for xerox copy)
(SEE SAMPLE PAGE ATTACHED)

2) The transcript of the "original" questioning of Marina Oswald, through a Russian interpreter, by agents of the US Secret Service on the weekend of the assassination. (At this time, she was in their "protective custody" at a motel near Dallas). In this interview, Marina answers some questions in an entirely different manner than she did when she later testified before the Commission. (For example, she said that the gun her husband owned had no scope. Pertaining to Oswald's motivation, she repeatedly stressed that her husband liked President Kennedy.) Since this interview is her earliest recorded recollection on many vital matters, it can be used to impeach much of her subsequent testimony upon which the Report is structured. ($9.20, Archives)

3) The Liebeler Memorandum of September 6, 1964
On September 6, 1964, when the Warren Report had reached the galley proof stage and publication was only weeks away, staff attorney Wesley Liebeler wrote a 26 page memorandum severely criticizing Chapter 4 (The Assassin). Since these galleys were hardly changed, much of the criticisms still apply. The memorandum criticizes the Report for its biased selection of facts from the underlying record, in order to support conclusions, writing: "To put it bluntly, that sort of selection from the record could seriously affect the integrity and credibility of the entire Report." It refers to the marksmen that the Commission used to prove Oswald "could have " performed the assassination as "the slow firing experts of the Commission", and to the testimony of one witness that was used by the Commission to place Oswald at the crime scene as "also consistent with Oswald having been in Ethiopia at the time of the assassination." Many other criticisms of this chapter, written in this vein, are in the 26 page memo.

About a new, limited edition, paperback book

The material previously described can be obtained by anyone by placing an order at the US National Archives: the price is about $75 for a loose unbound Xerox copy. (Microfilm copy: $19)

A California publisher whose specialty is going from microfilm original to fully bound paperback format has agreed to publish a limited edition of the three items described, in the form of a hi quality soft cover bound paperback book. The size will be about 7" by 9".

The publisher involved caters to historical societies, universities, and libraries. His firm has published back issues of the Philadelphia Gazette, bound in hard cover, for the Philadelphia Historical Society. They are a major publisher of items for the hard of seeing, in special large print. (Their most recent such book is "Letters from Svetlena") They are specialists in going from "microfilm original" to paperback or hardcover book format, and then distributing the result to the appropriate specialty market.

The book will contain a brief explanatory introduction. What will then follow are the three items described in this notice: the transcript of the Executive Sessions; the transcript of the Marina Oswald questioning; the Liebeler Memorandum of 9/6/64

The printing is high quality photo-offset, done on the most modern equipment available. Since each reproduced page comes from the corresponding one on a reel of microfilm sent from Archives, it is facsimile reproduction, adjusted to the page-size of the book. Because of the quality procedures and equipment used, the book will almost have the appearance of a typeset document.

The original press run on this item will constitute a special limited edition. Its price will be $17.50 Until June 15th, you can order a copy for $15. If you are interested, please respond immediately. Multiple orders will be accepted.

The production run on this specialty item is tentatively scheduled for the third week in June; the size of the printing will be determined by the orders that are received now. The books will be mailed, prepaid, in the fourth week in June.

This book should be an ideal companion piece for anyone who has access to a set of the 26 volumes, or who has become a student of the assassination and wants to read items such as the executive sessions transcript to see just how the Commission approached its job.

This book will not be available at either price mentioned here ($15;$17.50) in the future. After this , it will be commercially marketed, by the publisher's distribution facilites, to universities, libraries, etc. and at a higher price.

Please reply immediately if you are interested. Send check or money order, payable to "David Lifton", to 11818½ Dorothy St., L.A. Calif. 90049
Use coupon if you wish. Thankyou.

To: David Lifton
11818½ Dorothy St.; L.A. Calif. 90049

Enclosed find $_____ for _____ copies of the book described in your notice of June 1, 1968.
Please ship to the following address(include ZIP code):

This sample page is from a discussion of Oswald's defection, and his subsequent return to the U.S.----with Marina----with the help of a State Department loan.

MR. MC CLOY: Another thing, my wife is pretty suspicious, because she's tried to get some American citizen, who is married to a Russian, got his wife out. She couldn't got it. How in the world did she got it? That's the most difficult thing in the world.

SEN. RUSSELL: That Marine guard who married that Russian girl, it took six months.

REP. FORD: There's some sailor staying over there. They want to throw him out and he won't leave until he takes his wife with him. I think that's right now.

MR. DULLES: I would like to get that material into the hands of the CIA as soon as possible to explain the Russian parts.

SEN. RUSSELL: I think you've got more faith in them than I have. I think they'll doctor anything they hand to us.

MR. DULLES: What Oswald said in his diary, about his relationship with them, about his attempted suicide, about the payment he got, all that business requires a very careful study.

SEN. RUSSELL: Well, all of that writing material that he brought out of there with him.

CHAIRMAN: And our Government furnished him four hundred and some dollars to bring that Russian wife over.

SEN. RUSSELL: The first time they brought home one of those defectors from Korea I wired the President, I wired the Secretary of State, I protested violently paying one dime to bring home those chaps who have spit on the American flag, jumped up and down on it in the mud, and in the presence of all of our people and soldiers renounce their citizenship. Whether they can do that or not, we didn't have to pay their way home. And this last one, I took that up with President Kennedy and they would not pay his way home, and finally this broadcasting company paid his way home.